

September 30, 2005

Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: *In the Matter of Federal State Joint Board on
Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I represent the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Ohio Commission") in this proceeding and I am writing to you in that capacity.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of a Finding & Order (F&O) released by the Ohio Commission on September 21, 2005. This F&O was issued pursuant to the FCC's directive set forth in CC Docket No. 96-45, which required State commissions to certify that the rural and non-rural carriers eligible to receive federal high-cost support in their State (including high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) will use such funding only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

As you can see from the attached Order (Attachment 1), the Ohio rural and non-rural carriers previously identified by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as eligible to receive the aforementioned federal USF support has filed with the Ohio Commission a sworn affidavit demonstrating their intent to utilize such funding in a manner consistent with Section § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

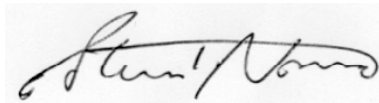
In further keeping with the federal certification requirements, also attached to this letter are two lists (included together as Attachment 2) separately identifying the specific

rural and non-rural carriers, respectively, that were granted certification via the September 21st F&O, along with each carrier's unique 6-digit NECA study area code.

Accordingly, the Ohio Commission certifies that all of the above-referenced carriers have indicated in writing their intent to use the funding only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Please send me a time-stamped copy of this letter in the enclosed self-addressed envelope (an extra copy of this letter is enclosed for that purpose). Otherwise, if you should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me at the number below or Jennifer Reed, Utilities Specialist 1 with the PUCO, at (614) 644-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven T. Nourse", is centered below the closing. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steven T. Nourse
Principal Attorney
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Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-4396
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cc: FCC, Marlene Dortch